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CLAIMS

1. A pressure pad comprising at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells, the cells extending linearly transversely along the pad and held in place on a pad base by retaining means, characterised in that the retaining means hold the cells in tension across the pad.

- 10 2. An alternating pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means are releasable.
- 3. An alternating pad as claimed in claims 1 or 2 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell.
 - 4. An alternating pad as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.
- 5. An alternating pad as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of each cell and hook type fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell.